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January 9, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I am writing this letter to express my support for the recently negotiated settlement of the Microsoft case. For the past several months, I have watched as the Department of Justice and several state Attorneys General have relentlessly pursued a frivolous antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft. As a user of Microsoft products, I think it is time to bring this issue to a conclusion.

The threat of government regulation has caused tremendous harm to the industry, consumers and the entire economy. At a time when the economy is heading into difficult times, the last thing the technology industry needs is more litigation and government regulation.

Further litigation will not improve quality or increase innovation. On the contrary, attempts to place limits on any part of the tech sector—not just Microsoft—will inhibit innovation, increase costs, and place America's technology at a disadvantage in the global market.

I think it is time to settle this matter and let the industry, and Microsoft, continue to develop affordable, innovative products.

Sincerely,

J. Edwin Hudspith